EXTRACTS

FROM THE

MINUTES OF THE XXXII. SESSION

OF THE

SYNOD AND MINISTERIUM

OF THE

Evangelical Lutheran Church,

IN

THE STATE OF NEW-YORK,

AND ADJACENT PARTS.

Convened in Ebenezer Church, Albany, Albany County, N. Y., on September 30th, and succeeding days, A. C. 1827.

TROY, N. Y.:

PRINTED BY TUTTLE AND RICHARDS.

1827.

THIRTY-SECOND SESSION

OF

THE SYNOD AND MINISTERIUM

OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN THE STATE OF NEW-YORK AND ADJACENT PARTS.

Sunday, September 30th, A. C. 1827.

THIS being the day, appointed in pursuance of Resolution XVII. of XXXI. Session, for the meeting of the Ministerium, the members assembled in the Evangelical Lutheran Church, *Ebenezer*, Albany, N. Y. and united with a numerous congregation, in the exercises of public worship. After the devotional offices of the Altar, the Rev. President pronounced the Synodical discourse, from Luke xi. 2—"Thy kingdom come."

In the afternoon, agreeably to previous appointment, the Rev. Mr. Berger preached from 1st Peter i. 3—"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which, according to his abundant mercy, hath begotten us again unto a lively hope, by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

At early candle-lighting, the Secretary delivered a sermon, on Isaiah xi. 6 and 9—"The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid, and the calf and the young lion, and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead

them." "They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea."

MORNING SITTING.

Ebenezer Church, Monday, October 1st, 1827.

The Clerical and Lay members, having convened at the appointed hour, the Synod was organized, and duly constituted with prayer, by the Rev. President.

The Rev. Mr. Hecht, Delegate from the Synod of Pennsylvania, was introduced to the House, and invited to a participation in its deliberations and acts.

The Rev. F. W. Geissenhainer, Jr. Pastor elect of St. Matthew's Church, New-York, and the Rev. H. Miller, a member of the Synod of Pennsylvania, were presented by the Rev. President; and, on request, took their seats with the Clergy.

CLERICAL MEMBERS PRESENT.

ORDAINED MINISTERS.

1. Rev. A. Wakerhagen, D. D. President of the Ministerium; Pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Churches in *Germantown* and *Livingston*, Columbia county, N. Y.

2. —— F. W. Geissenhainer, D. D. Treasurer of the Ministerium; Pastor of the United German Lutheran Churches, *New-York City.*

3. —— F. J. G. Uhl, Pastor, &c. *Churchtown*, Columbia county, N. Y.

4. —— F. G. Mayer, Ebenezer Church, *Albany*, Albany county, N. Y.

5. —— E. L. Hazelius, D. D. Principal of Hartwick Seminary, *Hartwick*, Otsego county, N. Y.

6. —— P. W. Domeier, *Delaburg*, Montgomery county, N. Y.

7. —— L. Merkel, Albany county, N. Y.

8. —— F. C. Schæffer, St. James' Church, *New-York City.*

9. —— D. Hendricks, *Ramapo* and *Munroe Works*, N. J.

10. —— G. A. Lintner, *Schoharie*, *Cobleskill*, and *Middleburg*, Schoharie county, N. Y.

11. —— J. R. Goodman, Secretary to Ministerium; Pastor, &c. *Brunswick*, *Sandlake*, and *Schaghticoke*, Rensselaer county, N. Y.

12. —— G. B. Miller, *Canajoharie*, Montgomery county: and Adjunct Professor in Hartwick Academy.

13. —— H. N. Pohlman, *New Germantown*, *German Valley*, and *Spruce Run*, N. J.

14. —— A. Crownce, *Sharon* and *Durlach*, Schoharie county, N. Y.

15. —— P. G. Cole, *Summit*, Schoharie county, and *Davenport*, Delaware county, N. Y.

16. —— J. Berger, *Ghent* and *Millville*, Columbia county, N. Y.

17. —— W. J. Eyer, *Wittemberg*, Dutchess county, N. Y.

18. —— F. W. Geissenhainer, Jr. *St. Matthew's*, New-York.

CANDIDATES.

19. Rev. J. D. Lawyer, *Stone Arabia*, *Minden*, and *Palatine*, Montgomery county, N. Y.

20. —— H. Hayunga, *Williamsburg, cum aliis,* Dundas county, Upper Canada.

21. —— C. B. Thummel, Herkimer county, N. Y.

22. —— F. W. Lehman, *Albany,* N. Y.

LAITY.

DELEGATES.

23. Mr. Matthias Rowe, representing the congregation in Rhinebeck.

24. —— Matthias Miller, Churchtown.

25. —— George B. Lesher, Germantown and Livingston.

26. —— Bernard J. Garling, Albany.

27. —— Henry D. Snecknor, United German Lutheran Churches.

28. —— Clark Davison, Hartwick.

29. —— Benjamin Ogden, M. D. St. James' Church.

30. —— David Schæffer, Schoharie, Cobleskill, and Middleburg.

31. —— D. Simmons and John Lape, Sr. Brunswick, Sandlake, and Schaghticoke.

32. —— H. F. Coxe, Canajoharie.

33. —— John Crownce, Sharon and Durlach.

34. —— Christian Meickle, Summit and Davenport.

35. —— Jacob Kern, New Germantown, German Valley, and Spruce Run.

36. —— John M. Pulz, Ghent and Millville.

37. —— Henry Pulz, Wittemberg.

38. —— Michael Swobe, Johnstown.

39. —— Henry J. Shulze, Stone Arabia, Minden, and Palatine.

40. —— Detlof H. Schmidt, St. Matthew's.

CLERICAL MEMBERS ABSENT.

1. Rev. F. H. QUITMAN, D. D. Senior of the Ministerium; Pasto, &c. *Rhinebeck*, Duchess county.
2. —— H. MŒLLER, *Hartwick*.
3. —— P. F. MAYER, D. D. *St. John's*, Philadelphia.
4. —— W. STARMAN, *Waldaborough*, Me.
5. —— J. SENDERLING, *Cicero*.
6. —— F. GUENTHER, *Bath*, *Ernest-town*, U. C.
7. —— J. P. GŒRTNER, *Johnstown*.
8. —— P. WIETING, *Le Ray* and *Lowville*;

For all whose absence, due apologies were received and accepted.

CONGREGATIONS NOT REPRESENTED.

Guilderland, Cicero, Lowville, Le Ray, Warren, Danube, Fredericksburg, Ernesttown, Williamsburg, et aliæ, U. C. Saddle River, Ramapo and Munroe Works, N. J.

The minutes of the previous session were read and approved.

On motion of the Secretary, and seconded by the Rev. Dr. Hazelius,

1. *Resolved*, That, at every adjourned sitting of this House, during its annual sessions, the minutes of the preceding meeting be read and acted upon.

In compliance with the requisition of the Constitution, the Rev. President gave, in detail, an interesting report of the various items of Synodical and Ministerial business transacted by

him, or to which his attention had been drawn, within the last recess. (*Vide Appendices*, A.)

On motion of the Rev. Mr. Lintner, seconded by the Rev. Mr. Pohlman,

II. *Resolved*, That the cheering report, made by the Rev. President, respecting the affairs of the church, within the bounds of this Synod, be gratefully received.

A letter from the Church Council of the congregation in Williamsburg, Dundas county, U. C. was read, and found to contain a request to be admitted into this body; which, on motion, was unanimously granted.

The Rev. President submitted to the attention of the House, the utility of an Act, incorporating this Synod; and the consideration of the measure suggested, was deferred to a future sitting.

The Rev. Mr. Schæffer delivered copies of the Minutes of the last session of the Synod of North Carolina; which were laid on the table, for distribution among the members, along with the printed transactions of the Synods of Pennsylvania and West Pennsylvania.

The Rev. Dr. Hazelius presented to the Synod, agreeably to directions from the Board of Trustees of Hartwick Seminary, the published Regulations for that institution, as lately revised.

The Rev. Dr. Geissenhainer, appointed a delegate to the Synod of Pennsylvania, at its late session, reported that, he was received with affectionate and fraternal regard by that body, and its individual members.

PAROCHIAL REPORTS,

And Congregational Contributions to Synodical and Missionary Funds.

CONGREGATIONS.	BAPTISMS.		*Confirmations.*	*Communicants.*	*Deaths.*	CONTRIBUTIONS.	
	Infants.	*Adults.*				*Mission.*	*Synod.*
Rhinebeck,	—	—	—	—	—	$3 00	$2 21
Germantown and Livingston,	90	3	7	120	12	8 31	2 00
United German Lutheran Churches,	—	—	—	—	—	5 00	5 00
St. Matthew's,	73	16	—	—	—	4 00	4 00
Churchtown,	87	—	1	79	—	0 00	2 00
Albany,	—	—	—	—	—	15 00	15 00
St. James'	—	—	—	—	—	3 00	5 00
Delaburg, &c.	71	—	6	81	15	0 00	0 00
Hartwick,	4	—	1	33	1	13 50	1 00
Schoharie, Cobleskill, and Middleburg,	121	—	8	251	—	18 00	0 00
Brunswick, Sandlake, and Schaghticoke,	70	4	9	237	8	0 00	0 00
New Germantown, German Valley, and Spruce Run,	176	6	10	157	26	0 00	0 00
Sharon and Durlach,	125	—	7	170	—	4 00	2 00
Wittemberg,	31	1	22	127	9	10 25	2 00
Milford, Davenport, and Summit,	21	—	2	110	3	0 00	0 00
Ghent and Millville,	45	2	18	162	16	0 00	2 00
Stone Arabia, Palatine, and Minden,	62	—	—	120	—	2 00	0 00
Danube,	11	—	—	—	—	0 00	0 00
Williamsburg and Osnaburg,	30	1	86	154	—	4 00	0 00
Saddle River and Ramapo,	—	—	—	—	—	0 00	3 00
Canajoharie,	—	—	—	—	—	2 00	0 00
	917	33	178	1801	90	$92 06	$46 21

NOTE.—The above tabular view of the state of tho Church within the bounds of this Synod, is rendered very imperfect, through the want of a large number of parochial returns from extensive Churches.

Apologies were offered by the Reverend gentlemen, nominated delegates by this Synod, to those of West Pennsylvania and Ohio, for non-attendance thereon; which were accepted.

On motion, made and seconded, the Treasurer's books were referred for examination to the Rev. Mr. Berger, D. T. Schmidt and D. Simmons; by whom, also, the different bills presented against the Synod, were directed to be audited.

The Chairman of the Committee of investigation, into certain charges, preferred against the Rev. P. W. Domeier, having given notice that he was ready to report; it was resolved to receive the communication with closed doors.

The report and accompanying documents, in connexion with the testimony given before the Committee, were then read; and after deliberation, the final consideration of the subject was postponed to 5 P. M.

On motion, adjourned to 2½ o'clock P. M.

Prayer by the Secretary.

AFTERNOON SITTING.

Monday, October 1st.

Prayer by the Rev. Mr. Schæffer.

The Rev. Dr. Hazelius, Chairman of the Missionary Committee made report, (*Vide Appendices*, B.)

On motion of the Rev. Mr. Schæffer, seconded by the Rev. Mr. Pohlman,

IV. *Resolved*, That the report be received;—that the thanks of the House be offered to the Committee for their services; and that they be continued for the current year.

The Rev. Dr. Ludlow, Pastor of the North Dutch Church in this city, appeared, and was introduced to the Synod by the Rev. President.

The Synod received with sorrow the communication, that serious indisposition required the departure of the Rev. Deputy Hecht, with his accompanying friend, the Rev. H. Miller.

The Rev. Mr. Lintner, called up for consideration, agreeably to previous notice, the following resolution presented by him:

V. *Resolved*, That a Committee be appointed to inquire into the general condition of the Congregations, in connection with this body; and that they report at the next meeting of the Synod.

The motion having been seconded, and followed by discussion, it was finally laid on the table; subject to the call of the mover.

The Rev. Mr. Pohlman offered the following resolution, which was seconded and adopted:

VI. *Resolved*, That a Committee be appointed to prepare a form of a Constitution for the establishment of Missionary Societies, to be recommended to the several Congregations belonging to this Synod for their adoption.

Whereupon the Rev. Dr. Hazelius, H. N. Pohlman, and G. A. Lintner were appointed.

The Rev. Mr. Lintner, as Chairman of the Committee on Hartwick Seminary, made report. (*Vide Appendices*, C.)

On motion,

VII. *Resolved*, That the report as read be received; and that the Committee be continued for the current Synodical year.

The Rev. G. B. Miller having declined a re-appointment, as one of the Committee, the Rev. J. D. Lawyer was named to supply the vacancy.

The consideration ot the report, &c. in relation to the Rev. P. W. Domeier was resumed, agreeably to its adjournment; and after a serious and deliberate interchange of sentiment, it was

VIII. *Resolved*, That the Rev. P. W. Domeier be suspended from his ministerial privileges; until evidences of reformation be furnished to this body.

IX. *Resolved*, That the Secretary inform the Congregation in Delaburg of this decision.

The Rev. Dr. Hazelius and the Rev. G. B. Miller, with Deputy Davison, asked and obtained leave of absence for the remainder of the Session.

On motion, adjourned to 9 o'clock A. M. to-morow.

Prayer by the Rev. Mr. Lintner.

ORDINATION.

In pursuance of a resolution unanimously adopted in the morning session of the Ministerium, the solemn and impressive offices suited to the occasion were commenced at early candle-lighting. By appointment, the Rev. F. C. Schæffer delivered the ordination sermon from 2d Timothy, ii. 5. "And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully."

The Rev. President having pronounced an affectionate and serious charge to the candidates, J. D. Lawyer and Hermanus Hayunga; and having received their engagements before the altar, the Holy Scriptures were delivered to them by the officiating brethren, and they were duly set apart and ordained as Ministers of the Gospel of our *Lord Jesus Christ*, by the *Imposition* of *hands* and *Prayer*.

The Ministerial brethren then united in the celebration of the Holy sacrament of the Supper, and the solemn exercises of the evening were closed with prayer and the Benediction.

MORNING SITTING.

Tuesday, October 2d.

Prayer by the Rev. Dr. Geissenhainer.

On motion of the Rev. F. G. Mayer, seconded by the Secretary,

X. *Resolved*, That the Rev. F. W. Geissenhainer, jr., be received a member of this Synod, by the right hand of Christian fellowship.

Which mark of fraternal regard having been unanimously extended, he was declared to be invested with all the rights of membership.

Mr. Coxe, in pursuance of previous notice, requested the decision of the Synod, in relation to the admission of congregations; when, on motion of the Secretary, and seconded, it was

XI. *Resolved*, That a Committee be appointed to submit to the next Synod, the terms and requirements under which Congregations shall be admitted into this body by lay-representation; and that they likewise prepare a mode of proceeding in cases of impeachment of any of the clerical members of this House.

Whereupon the Secretary, the Rev. Mr. Schæffer and Messrs. Snecknor, Ogden and Coxe were appointed.

On motion of Mr. Schmidt, seconded by D. Simmons, Esq., (after a call for the yeas and nays, which resulted in the affirmative,) it was

XII. *Resolved*, That the resolution in relation to the Rev. P. W. Domeier be reconsidered.

On motion of the same gentleman and seconded,

XIII. *Resolved*, That the resolution as adopted, be amended by adding to its close, the words, "*or the Rev. President hereof.*"

The Rev. Mr. Berger, Chairman of the Committee on Treasurer's accounts and bills presented, reported, that on examination of the books and vouchers, balances of Missionary funds of $61 40, and Synodical monies of $246, 2¼ remained in his hands; and that the bills laid before them were found correct, and duly passed.

Adjourned, to go into Ministerial Session, until 2½ o'clock P. M.

Prayer by the Rev. Mr. Berger.

AFTERNOON SITTING.

Tuesday, October 2d.

Prayer by the Rev. F. G. Mayer.

The following preamble and resolution were offered by the Rev. Mr. Pohlman; and having been seconded were adopted.

Whereas, Many members of the Synod have heretofore, in their parochial reports, given the *aggregate* number of communicants in each year; and as it is impossible, by this plan, to ascertain the strength of each congregation belonging to this body, therefore

XIV. *Resolved*, That it be incumbent upon every member of the Ministerium, in their future parochial reports, to give only the number of *individual* communicants belonging to their respective congregations.

On motion of the Rev. Mr. Lawyer, and seconded; the Secretary was authorised to direct the printing of 250 Circulars, notifying the members of the annual meetings of the Ministerium.

The consideration of the subject, in relation to an act of Incorporation for this Synod, having been resumed,

XV. *Resolved*, That the Secretary, the Rev. Mr. Mayer, Messieurs Feltman and Simmons be a Committee, to procure all necessary information in respect to the procuring of an act of Incorporation; and that they be authorised to report by petition to the State Legislature, or othwise.

On unanimous request of the Synod, the Rev. President accepted the appointment of delegate to the next Session of the Synod of Pennsylvania.

The time and place of holding the next annual Session having been called up for consideration, invitations were laid before the meeting, from the Congregations in Canajoharie, St. Matthews, N. Y. and Ghent.

It was finally

XVI. *Resolved*, That when this Synod adjourns, it adjourn to meet in *St. Matthews Church, New York*, on the *second Sunday* in *September*, 1828.

On motion it was unanimously

XVII. *Resolved*, That the officiating Pastor communicate to the Vestry and Congregation of Ebenezer

Church, in this place, the thanks of the Synod for the kind and hospitable attention received during the session.

On motion, adjourned to the time and place appointed by Resolution XVI.

Concluding prayer by the Rev. President.

Church, in this place, the thanks of the Synod for the kind and hospitable attention received during the session.

On motion, adjourned to the time and place appointed by Resolution XVI.

Concluding prayer by the Rev. President.

MINISTERIAL SESSION.

Monday, Oct. 8th, 12 o'clock, M.

The Clerical members, having remained in session, after the adjournment of the morning's sitting of Synod, proceeded to the consideration of business, strictly *ministerial*.

A communication was read from the associate Churches in Stone Arabia, Minden, and Palatine, Montgomery county, N. Y. expressing unanimous approbation of the *walk and conversation* of the Rev. candidate, John Depeyster Lawyer, since his assuming the charge of the above congregations; and desiring his ordination as Pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church.

A petition was likewise presented, from the Vestry of the congregation in Williamsburg, Upper Canada; furnishing a similar testimonial of the correctness of the religious deportment, &c. of the Rev. Licentiate, Hermanus Hayunga; and containing a like request for his ordination.

On motion of the Rev. Dr. Hazelius, seconded by the Rev. Dr. Geissenhainer, it was unanimously

***Resolved*, That the Rev. Candidates, John D. Lawyer, and Hermanus Hayunga, be set apart, and ordained Ministers of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, this evening, by the appointed solemnities of the Church.**

The Rev. President stated, that, in May last, he had provisionally licensed Messrs. Frederick William Lehman and Christian Bernhard Thummel, from the Universities of Halle, Bonn, and Tubingen, in Germany:—that they now returned their licenses, which had been granted *ad interim*, and presented themselves to the Ministerium, for examination, &c.

The name of Mr. Thomas Lape, a Student of Divinity in Hartwick Academy, was likewise laid before the Ministerium, as an applicant for license.

After deliberation, the applicants having previously retired, it was

Resolved, That the gentlemen who have presented themselves as applicants for license, be notified to appear before this body at its next sitting; when the members will resolve themselves into a Committee of Examination.

SECOND SITTING.

Tuesday, Oct. 9th, 12 o'clock, M.

The Ministerium resolved itself into a Committee of Examination, on the applications for Ministerial license, from Messrs. Lehman, Thummel, and Lape.

After progress, the Committee rose, and adjourned to sit again this afternoon, at 2 o'clock.

THIRD SITTING.

Tuesday, Oct. 9th, 2 o'clock, P. M.

The examination of the applicants was resumed:—during which, gratifying evidences were given of their intimate acquaintance with the original languages of the Old and New Testaments—of their knowledge of the various branches of Systematic Divinity—and of a profitable attention to Ecclesiastical History. The result was such, as to procure an unanimous vote for the conferring of licenses to the afore-named gentlemen; and the usual services were appointed, to take place this evening at 6½ o'clock.

On motion of the Rev. Mr. Lintner, and seconded; the Rev. President appointed the Rev. Dr. Hazelius, and Rev. Messrs. G. B. Miller, G. A. Lintner, A. Crownce, and P. G. Cole, a Committee for the installing of the Rev. J. D. Lawyer into his pastoral charge over the congregations under his care, at such time as the Committee may direct.

On motion, the Ministerium adjourned to the time and place hereafter to be determined by the Synod.

LICENSING OF CANDIDATES.

The public worship of Almighty God, was commenced at 6½ o'clock, P. M.; after which, the Rev. F. W. Geissenhainer, Jr. discoursed on Ephesians, v. 25, 26, 27: "Even as Christ also loved the Church, and gave himself for it; that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word; that he might present it to himself, a glorious Church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish."

On request, the Rev. Dr. Geissenhainer addressed the applicants; when, the Rev. President, having received the promises and engagements, required by the Constitution of the Ministerium, gave them the right hand of Christian fellowship and love; and received them, as co-workers in the Kingdom of the Redeemer on earth.

Invocations for Divine aid and blessing were then offered; and, after singing a Hymn, the numerous auditory was dismissed with the Benediction.

I certify, that the above extracts have been faithfully made from the Records of the XXXII. Session of the Synod and Ministerium of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the State of New-York and adjacent parts.

J. R. GOODMAN,

Secretary to Ministerium.

Troy, N. Y.

APPENDICES.

A.

Report made by the Rev. President.

My Brethren,

Once more, has a kind Providence granted us to meet as brethren, as fellow-workers in the Church of our great Redeemer;—once more, are we assembled for the purpose of exchanging experiences—of rejoicing together in events favourable to the cause of Christianity among us—of consulting upon measures and means, still more to forward that great and good cause—and of encouraging each other to go on rejoicing in our united and individual efforts to build up the kingdom of heaven on earth; which is the reign of truth, wisdom, and virtue, and which alone and infallibly leads men to God, to peace, and true felicity.—In the year past, since our last annual meeting, events have happened in our part of the Christian Church, as far as it comes under our more immediate view, which command our utmost gratitude to the wise and good Disposer of all human events; and prospects have been opened to us, which promise much for the time to come, and cannot fail to engage our most serious attention. Our part of the Church has increased in various directions, and the helping hand of God has been manifest among us; the harvest is increased, and the labourers have become more.—Let me descend to particulars:

1. On the 5th of October, 1826, I had the pleasure of inducting the Rev. Jacob Berger into his place and Church, as Minister of the Lutheran congregation at Ghent, Columbia county. Al-

though on a week day, the spacious church was crowded to overflowing: there appeared at the Lord's table, on that occasion, one hundred and twenty communicants—among them, a respectable preacher of another denomination. Several confirmations and baptisms also took place at the time.

2. October 26th, I inducted the Rev. W. J. Eyer into his office, as Pastor of the Lutheran congregation at Wurtemburg, Dutchess county; where, notwithstanding an almost unexampled storm of wind and rain, an attentive audience was assembled.

3. Upon invitation, I visited and preached for the small and destitute Lutheran congregation at Woodstock, Ulster county, in November, 1826. Although the Lutherans in that vicinity have an ancient church of their own, still, by the particular request of the Dutch Reformed congregation and their Minister, and by the willing consent of the Lutheran party, I preached in the Reformed church; immediately after which, the Reformed Minister, the Rev. Mr. Boice, administered the Lord's Supper to his own congregation—both congregations having united in the previous services conducted by myself. All was done to the high edification of both parties. In the evening, both Clergymen preached in different parts of the vicinity.

4. In the fall of the year, the Rev. J. P. Gœrtner formally entered upon his call, as Pastor of the Lutheran congregation at Johnstown, Montgomery county, and was solemnly inducted by the Rev. Dr. Hazelius and other Clerical brethren of the vicinity.

5. In January, 1827, I received an invitation to attend at the dedication of a new church, built by different denominations of Christians, in the town of Saugerties, Ulster county; but, having proceeded several miles on my way thither, was prevented, by the violence of a snow-storm and the depth of the drifts, from accomplishing my purpose.

6. The Rev. F. C. Schæffer informed me, January 9th, 1827, that he had finally dissolved his former connection with St. Mat-

thew's Church, New-York, and accepted of, and entered upon, a call from a Lutheran congregation, worshipping in New-Jerusalem Chapel, in the same city.

7. The Rev. P. W. Domeier gave me notice, January, 1827, of a new call from the Lutheran congregation at Stone Arabia; which he had accepted.

8. Under date of February 6th, the joyful communication was made to me by the Rev. F. C. Schæffer, of New-York, that a truly Christian friend and benefactor, whose name, however, was not revealed, had granted to him and his congregation, for ever, a church, spacious, substantial, and in the best condition; situated in Orange-street, New-York; of which the Rev. Mr. Schæffer and his congregation, were to take possession in the month of May ensuing.

9. The 15th of January forwarded to me a letter from the Rev. Candidate, Hermanus Hayunga, giving an account of the two Lutheran congregations at Williamsburg and Osnabruck, Upper Canada, under his care.

10. In the course of the same month, information was conveyed to me, confirmed by letters from the Rev. Dr. Geissenhainer, that St. Matthew's Church had been purchased by the German Lutheran congregation under his care; and that the Rev. Fr. Geissenhainer, Jr. of Pennsylvania, had received a call to St. Matthew's; upon which he entered soon after.

11. A letter from the Rev. Candidate, J. D. Lawyer, dated February 7th, informed me, that he had received and accepted of a call from the united congregations of Stone Arabia, Palatine, and Minden; upon the duties of which, he intended to enter in the ensuing month of March.

12. On the 9th of February, I was favoured with the Report of the Committee appointed by the last Synod for the investigation of certain charges preferred against the Rev. P. W. Domeier; which Committee had met December 27th, 1826, at Stone Arabia. The report was accompanied by testimonies and affida-

vits, given on both sides; which report, together with the accompanying papers, are now in my possession, open to the inspection and decision of this Synod. Since it was not my province, to decide in a matter of such vital importance, and of such vast consequences; (the Synod having, notwithstanding his most serious remonstrances, devolved upon their chief organ a power, which, by our Ministerial Constitution, he did not think himself warranted to exercise,) the case, therefore, stands referred to this Synod.

13. The Rev. J. D. Lawyer gratified me by the information, that, on the 1st of March, he had removed to Stone Arabia, and taken charge of his three congregations.

14. Under date of April 4th, the lamentable intelligence was received from the Rev. J. P. Gœrtner,* that, on account of impaired health, he had been reluctantly obliged to resign his call in Johnstown.

15. May 24th, I had the pleasure of receiving, at my house, two gentlemen, Messrs. Frederick Wm. Lehman, and Christian B. Thummel, Candidates of Divinity, from Germany; who had pursued their Theological studies at the Universities of Bonn, Tubingen, and Halle, and come highly recommended by the Rev. Dr. Hazelius and other gentlemen. After due examination, I rejoiced in the privilege granted to the President, by our Ministerial Constitution, and furnished them with the desired licenses *ad interim*, which they, no doubt, will give themselves the pleasure to lay before this Synod—presenting themselves for examination, and praying to have their licenses confirmed and renewed by the Synod. Mr. Thummel has since, upon the recommendation of the Rev. Dr. Hazelius, been engaged in some small congregations in the north-west part of this state. Mr. Lehman has, by the request of our venerable, but at times, by bodily pain,

* Immediately following his resignation, the Rev. Mr. Gœrtner proceeded to Europe; from whence, letters have been received, within a short time, conveying the pleasing information, that his health has so far improved, as to beget the hope, that a few months will restore him, under Divine favour, to the Church and his friends.

disabled Senior, the Rev. Dr. Quitman, spent the summer in Rhinebeck, assisting him in the performance of his Clerical functions.

16. June 4th brought the welcome intelligence from the Rev. F. C. Schæffer, of New-York, that on Sunday, May 13th, himself and his congregation had taken a formal and solemn possession of the church granted them by a generous, although unknown, benefactor; that the church was initiated under the name of St. James'; and that the religious services, on that memorable day, were rendered the more solemn, by the aid which the venerable father of the Pastor, and the Rev. Messrs. Pohlman and Gœrtner, afforded on the occasion. The congregation worshipping in St. James', is stated to be in a very promising condition.

17. Since good is mixed with ill in this imperfect state of man, I cannot hide from you the lamentable fact, that a younger brother of ours, the Rev. Mr. Wessels, has, since the spring of this year, by a mental indisposition, been disabled to continue in the former course of his Ministerial labours: an event, which will not fail to excite the deep sympathies and regrets of all his more favoured brethren.

18. Recent information from Williamsburgh and Osnabruck, Upper Canada, by the Rev. Mr. Hayunga, is of a very cheering nature; a newly erected church having been dedicated, by him, to the worship of the Most High, and the condition of the congregation under his pastoral care being promising.

19. The Rev. J. R. Goodman, gives notice of the completion of a new church in the town of Schaghticoke, within the last week, which is now ready for consecration.

20. New churches are also in building in the towns of Summithill, under the eye of the Rev. Mr. Cole, and Millville, in a newly formed congregation, under the care of the Rev. Mr. Berger.

Thus you will perceive, my Brethren, that the countenance of our God has not been hid from our portion of his Church, in the Synodical year past. May his smiles make our hearts glad, and fill them with hope and courage for the time to come; and may the untoward events, which his wise Providence permits to occur, teach us humility and a firm reliance on him, from whom our help cometh, whose we are, and whom we serve, under his Son Jesus Christ, our Head and Master: Amen!

AUG'S WACKERHAGEN, D. D.

B.

REPORT OF THE MISSIONARY COMMITTEE.

1. With gratitude towards God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, your Committee is enabled to state, that the weak exertions on our part, to build up the waste places of our Zion, have been abundantly blessed, notwithstanding the smallness of our means.

Immediately after the meeting of the Synod last year, the congregation in West Camp, Ulster county, which had petitioned the Synod for assistance, were presented with a small sum, which, added to the contribution raised by the members of the congregation, would enable them, as they stated, to obtain the services of the Rev. Mr. Eyer, once in four weeks. The Chairman of your Committee, has since been informed, by letter from Mr. Eyer, that, for some time, he preached regularly every fourth week in said congregation; but that circumstances had, of late, prevented him from attending as regularly as he could wish.—Your Committee would, therefore, recommend to your reverend body, that Mr. Eyer be again requested to take charge of said congregation, as well as a small congregation at Woodstock; and

that such measures be adopted, for the preservation and advantage of these feeble congregations, as in your wisdom may be deemed expedient; the Missionary Committee, at the same time, being willing to assist, from the Missionary Fund, as much as possible.

2. The congregation at Williamsburgh, Dundas county, and Osnabruck, county of Cornwall, Eastern district, U. C. have enjoyed the services of the Rev. Mr. Hayunga, since the last session of the Synod. In the former township, a church has been built, in the fourth concession, on a lot of three acres, presented for that purpose, by Mr. Cook; and has been dedicated to the service of Almighty God, by the above named reverend gentleman.

On a late visit to these congregations, the Chairman of your Committee had the satisfaction to observe a great and increasing attention to the preaching of the Gospel, in these regions; no less than eighty-seven persons, have been received as members of the Church, by act of confirmation, during the course of the past summer.

The parsonage-house and lot of ground, granted to the Lutheran congregation in Williamsburgh, near the river St. Lawrence, by an act of Parliament of Upper Canada, is still held in possession by Mr. Wiegand, an Episcopalian clergyman, formerly of our church; but steps have been taken, to bring the claims of the Lutheran congregation to said property, before the constituted authorities of that country.

3. The congregations in Ernest-town and Fredericksburgh, Addison county, Middle district, U. C. which have been now for some time under the pastoral care of the Rev. Mr. Guenther, were also visited last spring, by the Chairman of your Committee; and here, likewise, the increasing attention to religion, and the zealous labour of our brethren, in that remote part of our Church, afforded him peculiar satisfaction. In the neighbourhood of Mr. Guenther, are several settlements, where missionary labour might be advantageously employed, and, in time, new con-

gregations be formed. One of these settlements is at Sidney, where four families now belong to our Church, and as many others are favourably disposed. About five miles beyond that settlement, are likewise a number of families belonging to our Church. At Mohawk-bay, a distance of about seven miles, there are, at present, six communicant members of the Lutheran Church, besides ten families, descendants of Lutherans, living in the immediate neighbourhood, most of whom, would undoubtedly join the Church, if they could enjoy the ordinances of the Gospel statedly. Six miles north-east of Mohawk-bay, is a settlement, where seven families belong to our Church, and the other settlers are favourable to its doctrines and Church government.

Besides these settlements, there are, in the township of Markham, on Young's street, about thirty miles north of York, and in the adjoining towns, a great number of Lutherans and others, of German descent, so that a German newspaper, printed at York, is supported by them. They have a minister by the name of Peterson.

One of the principal obstacles to the growth of our Church in Canada, is to be found in the great number of circuit preachers of various sects, who pretend to preach the Gospel without pay, being, for a time at least, supported by their several denominations. As the salary of Mr. Guenther is barely sufficient, by the strictest economy, to maintain himself and family, it will not allow him to undertake missionary tours, to any distance, at his own expense.

Your Committee would propose to your reverend body, to recommend the above mentioned unsupplied settlements to the Rev. Mr. Guenther, as soon as a reasonable provision can be made, from the Missionary Fund, to remunerate him for such services, and to open a correspondence with the Rev. Mr. Peterson, inviting him to join our Synod.

4. The Chairman of your Committee has, likewise, had the pleasure of visiting the congregation at Lowville, Lewis county, under the care of the Rev. Mr. Wieting, collected by him within the last two years; and he has observed, with heart-felt satisfac-

tion, a great and salutary change in the religious aspect of that country, since the time of his last visit, three years ago. Mr. Wieting has since stated, to the Chairman of your Committee, that he has received repeated and pressing invitations, to preach in the town of Orleans, Jefferson county, a place which is fast settling, and is yet unprovided with the Gospel. The inhabitants are desirous to have a minister of our denomination; and Mr. Wieting is confident that a numerous congregation might be gathered; but, as in all new settlements, they are, as yet, unable to make up a competent salary. It may be advisable, if the Missionary Fund will allow of it, to grant to the Rev. Mr. Wieting a sufficient sum to enable him, for one year, to appropriate part of his time to missionary services in Orleans, with a request that he report the result of his labours to your Committee, before the next meeting of the Synod.

5. The congregation at Danube, Herkimer county, which has been vacant since Mr. Guenther removed from that quarter, has been repeatedly visited by the Chairman of your Committee, and the Rev. Mr. Lawyer has, likewise, preached there; and, since the beginning of the present summer, the Rev. Mr. Thummel has been engaged by them, until the meeting of the Synod.

6. The congregations at Stone-Arabia and Minden, officially declared vacant by Mr. Domeyer, at the last session of the Synod, have been visited by the Rev. Mr. Schæffer, of New-York, and, last winter, gave a call to the Rev. Mr. Lawyer. The present attention paid to the preached Gospel, in these congregations, is the more apparent and pleasing, by the contrast which it offers, with their former condition.

7. Mr. Lawyer has, likewise, effected a restoration of that union, which formerly subsisted between the congregations of Stone-Arabia and Palatine, after the latter congregation had been left vacant for a number of years, and had partly engaged a minister of another denomination. The Chairman of your Committee has the satisfaction to declare, as an eye-witness, the agreeable change which has taken place in this, as well as the other two congregations just mentioned, in their attention to spiritual concerns.

8. The congregation at Johnstown, Montgomery county, having been bereft, at least for a season, of the services of their Pastor, the Rev. Mr. Gœrtner, has been visited, since his departure, by Rev. Messrs. Lintner, Lawyer, and the Chairman of your Committee. Mr. Lape has been recommended to the congregation, to be employed by them, *ad interim*, until Mr. Gœrtner's return.

9. Information has been received, through the medium of the Rev. Mr. Crownce, that there are settlements in the county of Madison, where the inhabitants are desirous to be supplied with preaching, by ministers of our persuasion. The Chairman of your Committee has since ascertained, that such a settlement is to be found in Hartsville, four miles west of Chitteningo, and hopes to lay more definite information before the Synod, concerning these people, at the next meeting of this body. Settlements of descendants from Germans, are, likewise, to be met with on Fish and Wood creeks, on the east side of Oneida lake. The earliest opportunity will be taken to visit them.

10. The members of our Church in the neighbourhood of Reemsnydersbush, which appear to be a considerable number, are still destitute; so is, likewise, the small congregation in Schuyler and Frankfort; and your Committee would recommend to your body, to adopt some measures with regard to these congregations, that they may be preserved.

11. The Committee has, likewise, been much gratified to learn the success of the Rev. Mr. Jacob Berger, in those new places committed to his pastoral care, and that, since his settlement in Ghent, new doors have been opened to his usefulness.

In this rapid view, cheering to your Committee, and indicative of the increasing state of the communion, they could not neglect the noticing of the munificent donation, by an unknown individual, of St. James's Church, in New-York, for a Lutheran congregation—a gift which is as unparalleled in this country, as it is deserving of the religious gratitude of this Synod.

12. The above named places, have attracted the attention of your Committee, during the past year; and, from the sketch here given, it will be apparent to the Synod, that the field for exertion is extensive, but that the labourers are few, and our present means by far too small, to accomplish the important objects which Divine Providence points out to us. Your Committee would, therefore, earnestly recommend to their brethren of the Synod, to exhort their respective congregations, to make diligent exertions in favour of the missionary cause.

It would be an easy task, if all should unite in the laudable undertaking, to maintain, at least in one district of the extensive field of missionary labours, a minister, who, by diligence and perseverance, with the blessing of God, might soon erect a number of flourishing congregations.

Your Committee feel persuaded, that our congregations will the more readily unite in this work of Christian love, from the thought, that they will be assisting their own kindred and relatives, to obtain the blessings of a preached Gospel, and that they will be laying a sure foundation for the increase of the Church in numbers and respectability, a Church which they love, and to the principles of which they adhere.

To further so desirable an object, your Committee would recommend that this Synod form itself into a Missionary Society, and that each minister and lay member exert himself to erect an Auxiliary Society, in his respective congregation, after a plan to be digested and proposed by the Synod, as Parent Society.

All which is respectfully submitted.

ERNEST L. HAZELIUS,
J. R. GOODMAN,
G. A. LINTNER,
HENRY F. COX,
HERMANUS BOUCK.

C.

REPORT

Of the Committee on Hartwick Seminary.

The Committee, appointed by the Synod "to confer with the Trustees of Hartwick Seminary on several subjects connected with the interests of said institution,"

REPORT:

That, since the last meeting of the Synod, nothing has occurred to change the prosperous condition of the Seminary.—Under the judicious management and able instruction of the Rev. Principal and his Assistant Teachers, the students have enjoyed every advantage in their scientific pursuits, and afforded satisfactory evidences of their improvement, in the several branches of education to which they have attended.

The students belonging to the Theological department, were examined in one of the rooms of the Seminary, on the 27th of August last. The examination was conducted by the Rev. Principal, in the presence of the Committee, the Trustees of the institution, and several other gentlemen, who were invited to attend on the occasion. The names of the students presented for examination were—Thos. Lape, from Greenbush, Rensselaer county; John Eisenlord, from Palatine, Montgomery county; Charles A. Smith, from the city of New-York; Nicholas W. Gœrtner, from Canajoharie, Montgomery county; and William D. Strœbell, from Charleston, South Carolina. The two former, were examined in the usual branches of Theology: such as, the Languages, Exegetical Theology, Church History, and Systematic Theology.—The three latter, have recently entered the department, and received instruction in several branches preparatory to, and connected with, their Theological studies. Another student, whom sickness prevented from attending the examination, has also received instruction in several Theological branches; and will pro-

bably resume his studies, as soon as his health will permit.—In the different branches above enumerated, the students sustained a most creditable examination. Their accurate knowledge of the subjects introduced, in the course of the examination, has confirmed the Committee in the opinion, expressed in one of their former reports: that the system of instruction, pursued in this department, is the most perfect, which, under the existing circumstances of the Seminary, could possibly be devised. The lectures of the Rev. Principal, are well calculated to give the students a general and correct knowledge of Biblical Theology. Besides this, the original compositions, which they are required to write, and the extemporaneous discussions, to which they are in the constant habit of attending, in the Theological Society, are sources from which they derive much benefit. The only disadvantage under which they labour, is the want of a more extensive library. The Theological library, it is true, has been considerably improved, by donations from the Synod and individuals; but it is still insufficient to answer all the purposes of the institution. It is, therefore, to be earnestly hoped, that the library may soon receive such additions and improvements, as its importance demands.

The annual examination of the students of the Academy, was held on the 28th of August last. This examination was also attended by the Committee, and some of the friends and patrons of the institution. Most of the classes, which were examined in the different branches of English and Classical education, gave satisfactory evidences of close and diligent application to their studies.—From the report of the Rev. Principal to the Board of Trustees, which was read in the presence of the Committee, it appears, that the moral conduct of the students, during the last annual term, has been generally satisfactory;—the rules and regulations, for the government of the institution, have been duly observed; and all the means of instruction and improvement, which the institution affords, have been faithfully applied.—For the number of students instructed in this department—the branches of education taught in the Seminary—the price of tuition, and other necessary expenses incurred by the students, the Committee refer the Synod to the Catalogue, published for the last year, and a copy of which is herewith presented.

On the evening of the 27th of August, the Committee had the pleasure of attending another anniversary exhibition, of an association of students belonging to the Seminary. The exhibition, as usual; excited much interest, and attracted a numerous and respectable audience. The performances of the young gentlemen, who participated in the exercises of the evening, were alike creditable to themselves and the institution.

It is one of the special duties of the Committee, "to inquire into the state of the funds of the institution," and communicate to the Synod such information, as may be deemed proper on the subject.—At their first meeting with the Board of Trustees, the Committee were favoured with an exact statement of all the funds of the institution; which statement, was communicated to the Synod in their first annual report. Since that time, the funds of the institution have continued to increase; and it was the intention of the Committee, in this report, to give an account of the present state of the funds; but the Agent, who has the management and disposition of the funds, under the direction of the Trustees, having been prevented from attending the last meeting of the Board, his accounts were not fully examined. The Committee, therefore, at their last interview with the Trustees, did not request an account of the present state of the funds; since, in the absence of their Agent, it could not be supposed, that they could furnish the Committee with accurate information on this subject.

G. A. LINTNER,
GEO. B. MILLER,
HENRY F. COX.

Albany, Oct. 1, 1827.

LIST OF OFFICERS,

Of the Synod and Ministerium of the State of New-York, with their Residences, &c.

Rev. Dr. QUITMAN, *Senior*, Rhinebeck, Dutchess county, N. Y.
—— Dr. WACKERHAGEN, *President*, Clermont, Columbia county, N. Y.
—— J. R. GOODMAN, *Secretary*, Troy, Rensselaer county, N. Y.
—— Dr. GEISSENHAINER, *Treasurer*, New-York city

ERRATUM,

In the publication of the Minutes of the XXXI. Session, held in Coblesskill:—instead of crediting the congregation in Wirtemberg for contribution of $6 to the Missionary Fund, this sum, should have been placed to the account of the Church in Johnstown.